WATER4ALL
PARTNERSHIP

Water4All: Water security for the Planet

Information webinar
Call 2024 “Water for Circular Economy”

2 October 2024

Webinar Instruction

- The webinar is recorded and will be available on replay on the Water4All Call webpage.
- Audio available to Speakers only
- Please ask your questions using the Webex-Chat
- FAQ document will be published on the Call website in the following days

Programme of the webinar

13:30-13:45	**Introduction** 1. Quick presentation of the Water4All European Partnership 2. Functioning of a European Partnership Joint Transnational Call Speaker: Maja Kolar (AEI, Spain)
13:45-14:05	**Presentation of call topics** 3. Topics and scientific content of the call 4. Expectations towards applicants Speaker: Miguel Angel Gilarranz (UAM, Spain)
14:05-14:30	**Presentation of the call process** 5. Modalities 6. Call process and eligibility rules Speaker: Simon Frank (PTKA, Germany)
14:30-15:20	Question and Answer session
15:20-15:30	Conclusions

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Introduction

Maja Kolar, AEI

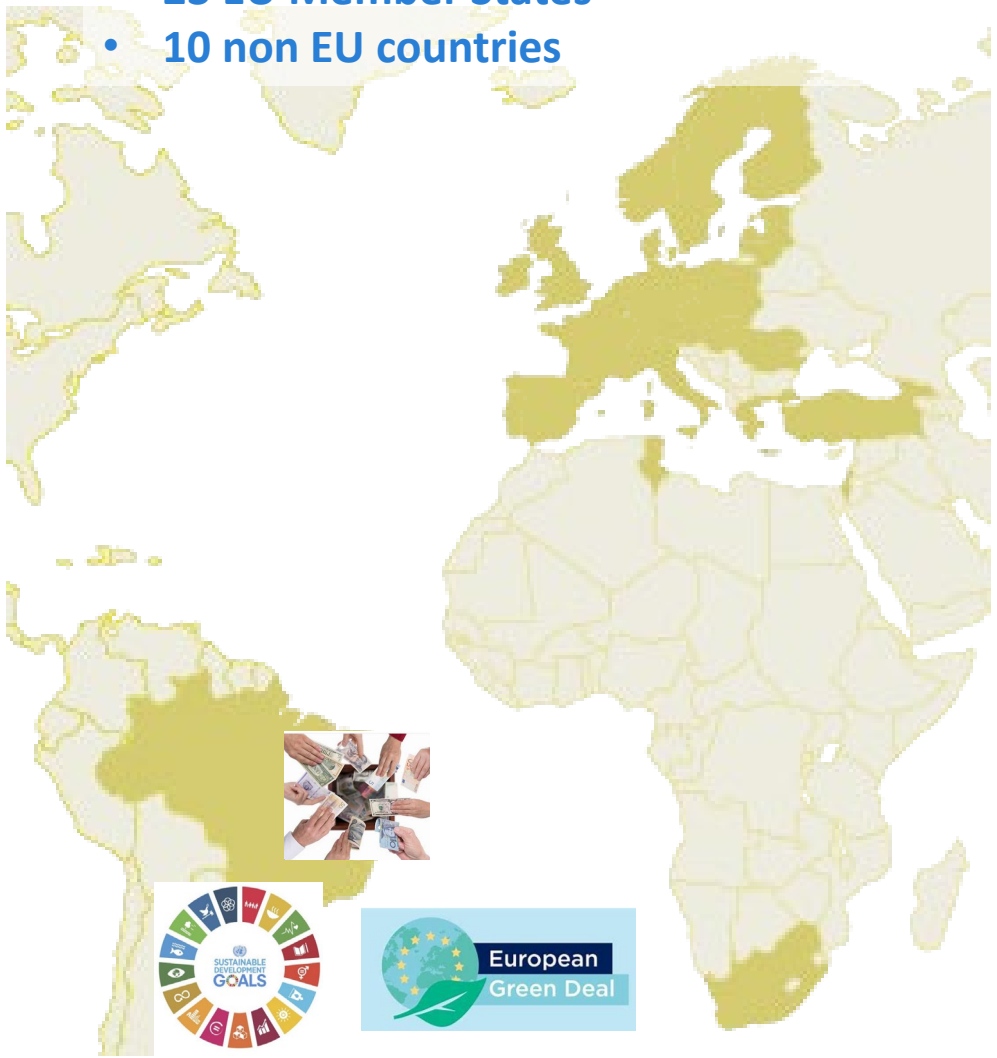
1. Quick presentation of the Water4All Partnership

Water4All Partnership

Partners

33 countries

- 23 EU Member States
- 10 non EU countries



Partnership

- Co-funded Partnership: instrument co-funded by the EC under the Horizon Europe framework programme
- Start: June 2022
- Variety of activities, among them 6 annual Joint Transnational Calls (in September each year) for funding excellent R&I projects

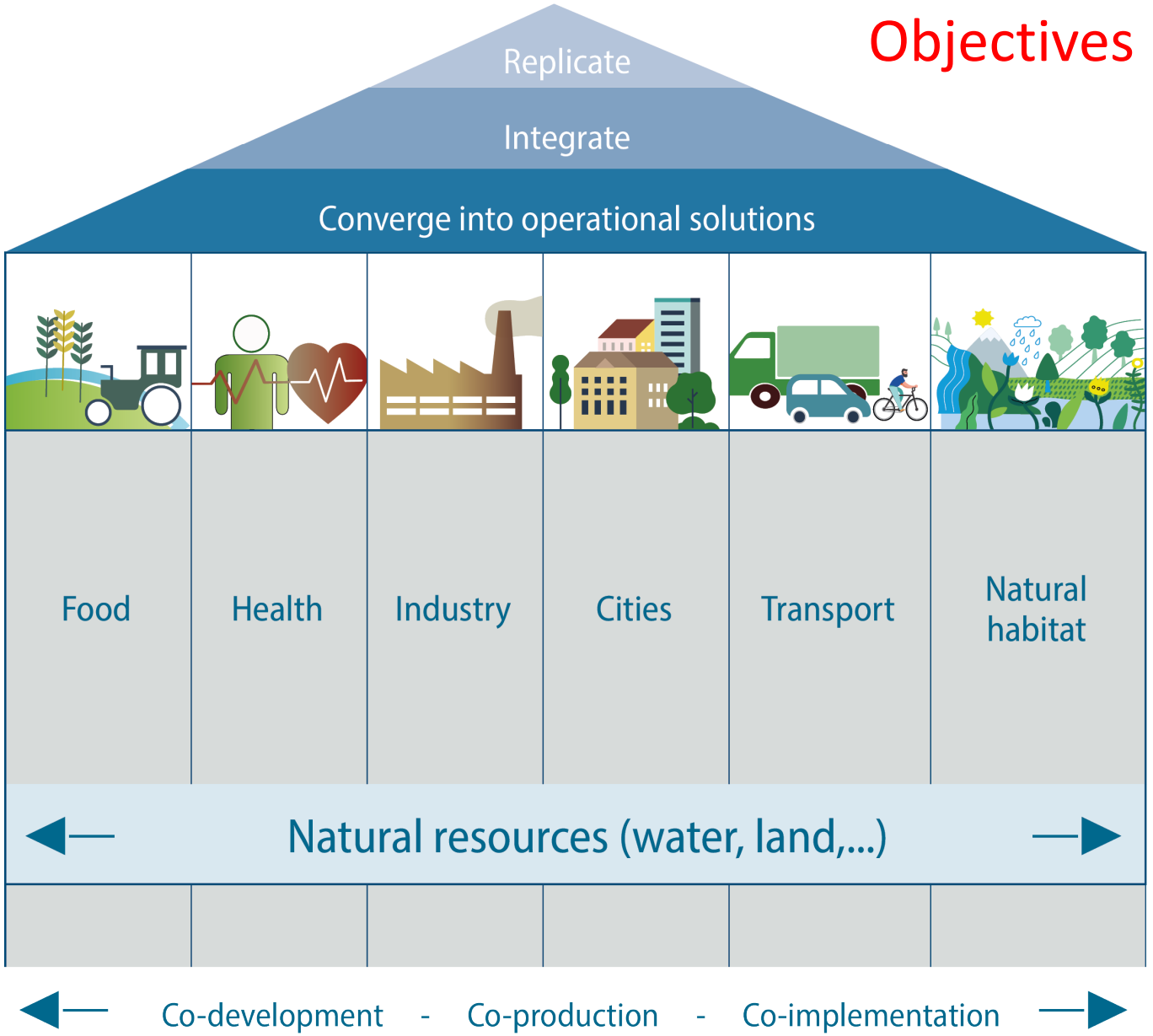
Water4All holistic approach and objectives

Four Specific Objectives

Water4All
Water security for the planet

Water4All Pilars and actions

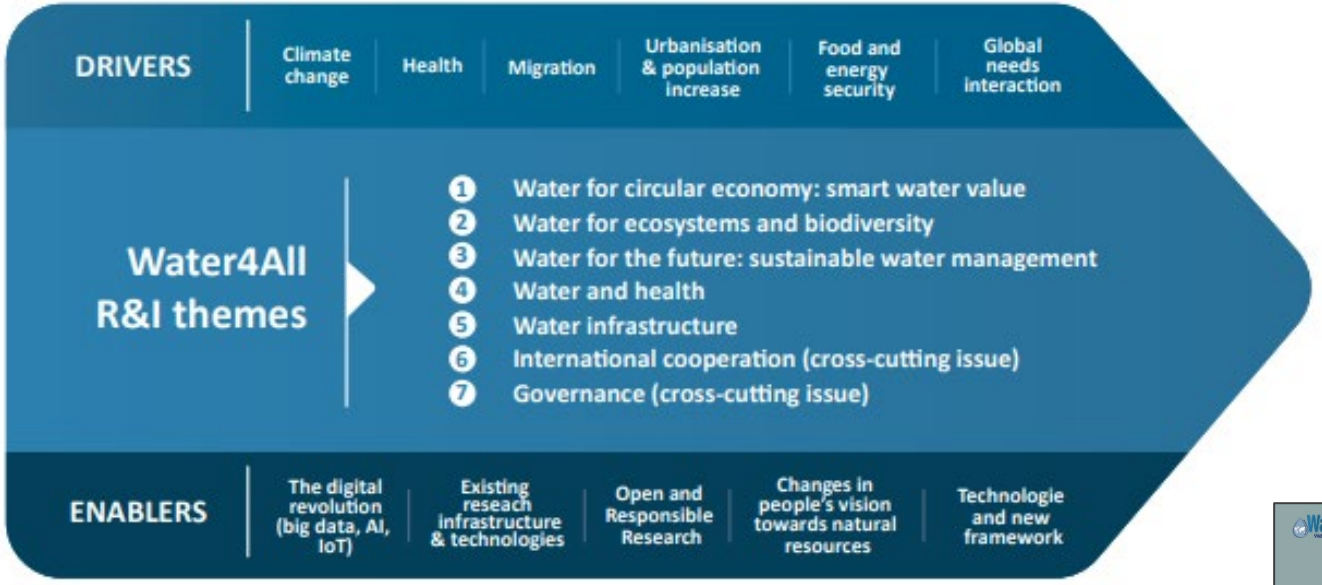
- Joint vision and SRIA
- Research and innovation development
- Science policy end-users interface
- Demonstrating solution efficiency
- Internationalisation



Water4All Outcomes

- deliver sound knowledge, tools and evidence basis on waterfor policy and decision making
- improve consideration of water impacts in all relevant policies
- Enhance the field / market use of innovative solutions to water challenges
- Increase citizens awareness and engagement for an inclusive water management

RDI themes & Strategic Research Innovation Agenda



7 core themes
25 sub-themes

- Research gaps
- Policy needs

Revision: 2025

After a large consultation process

SRIA Themes addressed through a variety of activities

2. Functioning of a European Partnership Joint Transnational Call

How does a Joint Transnational Call work?

Funding Organisation #1
Funding Organisation #2
Funding Organisation #3

…

Funding Organisation #N

+

Co-funding from the European Commission (EC)

One joint Call

- With one single joint (international) evaluation
- Funding of the best ranked top projects until the funds are exhausted

NO NATIONAL PRE- OR POST- SELECTION

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Presentation of the call topics

Miguel Angel Gilarranz (UAM, Spain)

3. Presentation of Call topics

Objectives of the 2024 Joint Transnational Call

- General Theme: Water for Circular Economy
  - New solutions to develop new circular feedstocks and value chains, increase water resource efficiency, improve water allocation, and optimize water use in water-dependent sectors.
  - Solutions should contribute to a reduction in resource interdependencies and supply of scarce resources. Water4All also wishes to contribute to the resolution of conflicts and the fair distribution and optimization of water resources, promoting synergies across water uses and needs as an alternative strategy to trade-offs strategies, and through participatory approaches and the empowering of users.
  - Barriers to the adoption of proposed solutions and the deployment of outputs, and to the impact in inland and coastal water environments.

Topic 1. Enhancement of water circularity in industries

1.1. Introducing innovative paradigms and methodologies for transitioning sectors towards circular economy models and decoupling production and water demand. This may include strategies to achieve zero liquid discharge and resource recovery.

1.2 Development of innovative processes and approaches to address minimization of water consumption, wastewater treatment for reuse, sustainable use of water sources, integration of stakeholder engagement for reuse for and among industrial actors and linkage to urban schemes.

1.3 Development of innovative monitoring procedures for process control and development of operating concepts and metrics for efficient water cycle management, compliance with regulation and standards, economic valuation, and risk assessment.

Topic 2. Urban water circularity

2.1. Enhancement of water cycle management within urban environments to increase efficiency and circularity and reduce reliance on conventional and less sustainable water supplies.

2.2 Integration of decentralized and centralized treatment systems, nature-based solutions enhancing existing systems, integration with industrial sector, harvesting and reuse of rainwater and runoff.

2.3 Novel monitoring and control methodologies. Comprehensive risk assessment strategies to mitigate potential environmental and operational risks associated with water reuse practices, ensuring compliance with applicable standards and regulations. Develop a comprehensive framework for dynamic risk monitoring and assessment to evaluate the safety and efficiency of water reuse systems under varying operational conditions and environmental impacts.

Topic 3. Resource recovery and valorization

3.1. Developing integrated approaches for recovering valuable resources from wastewater, sludges, brines, and reservoir sediments. Among others, strategies may target nutrients, metals, critical raw materials, high value products and energy.

3.2. Exploring synergies between resource recovery and water reuse in both industrial and urban contexts to maximize efficiency and sustainability.

3.3. Assessing the applicability of recovered materials for various uses, considering emerging standards and regulations for resource recovery, business models and the Life Cycle Analysis of the recovered materials across the value chain.

Topic 4. Economic, environmental and social implications of water reuse and recovered products

4.1. Conducting comprehensive assessments on the implications of circularity schemes on water environments to ensure long-term sustainability and mitigate negative impacts. This includes assessing how components coupled in a functionally and meaningful way in systems will impact the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus. Incorporate circularity measurement and assessment with emerging standardized indicators for circularity and sustainability, to foster inclusive and equitable water resource management across all sectors. Compliance with the emerging regulations and standards, monitoring and modelling approaches and potential interventions to minimize the environmental impact may be addressed.

4.2. Identifying and assessing economic and social aspects collectively influencing stakeholders' awareness, market confidence and acceptance, social acceptance, opportunities, drivers and barriers to the creation and adoption of solutions for water reuse and resource recovery and reuse.

4.3. Developing management strategies, policy options, steering mechanisms and governance systems that facilitate the integration of circularity methodologies into existing water management frameworks while addressing economic and social concerns. Approaches may consider innovative regulatory frameworks to promote circularity.

Selected notes from Call Announcement

- At least one topic must be addressed in proposals
- It is not compulsory to address all subtopics within a topic in the proposals.
- It is possible to submit comprehensive proposals addressing more than one topic and subtopic.
- The context for the general call topics are described in **Theme I of the Water4All Strategic and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, “Water for Circular Economy: smart water value”.
- Themes VI and VII in the SRIA on “International cooperation” and “Governance”, respectively, must be considered as they are cross-cutting issues to all other themes.
- Water for hydro generation, cooling and use of water in crop agriculture not eligible under topics 1, 2 and 3.
- Health aspects related to epidemiology and fate of contaminants not eligible
- Avoid duplication of funding for the same proposal in Water4All and DUT .

4. Expectations towards applicants

Proposals are expected to:

- Address clearly the call topics, alignment with objectives and impacts expected for the call
- Excellence: new knowledge; innovative tools, methodologies and approaches to governance and management
- Transfer of knowledge and impact of the outputs must be demonstrated. Contribution to the acceleration of the adoption of measures
- Multi- and interdisciplinary approaches for better definition of problems and development and delivery of solutions (not per se)
- Avoid duplication o minor variations of previous projects and actions. Proposals building on previous results must demonstrate substantial progress.
- Impact: identification and involvement of stakeholders, problem and outcome-driven proposals, verification of contribution and impacts

Evaluation criteria

- E.g.

TABLE 3: EVALUATION CRITERIA

Excellence	Impact	Implementation (Step 2 only)
Threshold: 3/5	Threshold: 3/5	Threshold: 3/5
1.1 Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives to the Water4All JTC 2024 topics and extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art. - Is the proposal clearly addressing, and has a main focus, aspects related to circularity in the use of water or the creation of water-related circular value chains? - Is the proposal contributing to and/or increasing the advancement of the Science &Technology knowledge? - Does the proposal take scientific and/or technological risk? (Please comment…)	**2.1 Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the call text, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.** - Is the plan for impact clear and does it follow logically from the expected results of the project? - Is it suitably ambitious with regards to solving the problem addressed? - Is there strategic impact on reinforcing competitiveness and/or on solving societal or environmental problems at European and international level? - Are the outcomes feeding into the expected pathway?	**3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.** - Is the proposed organization and management of the scientific project effective and efficient? - Are the management structures and procedures, including and innovation management, appropriate? - Are risks properly identified and managed? - Are the resources assigned to the work packages in line with their objectives and deliverables? **3.2 Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which**

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Presentation of the call process

Simon Frank & Anne Petzold (PTKA, Germany)

5. Call Modalities:

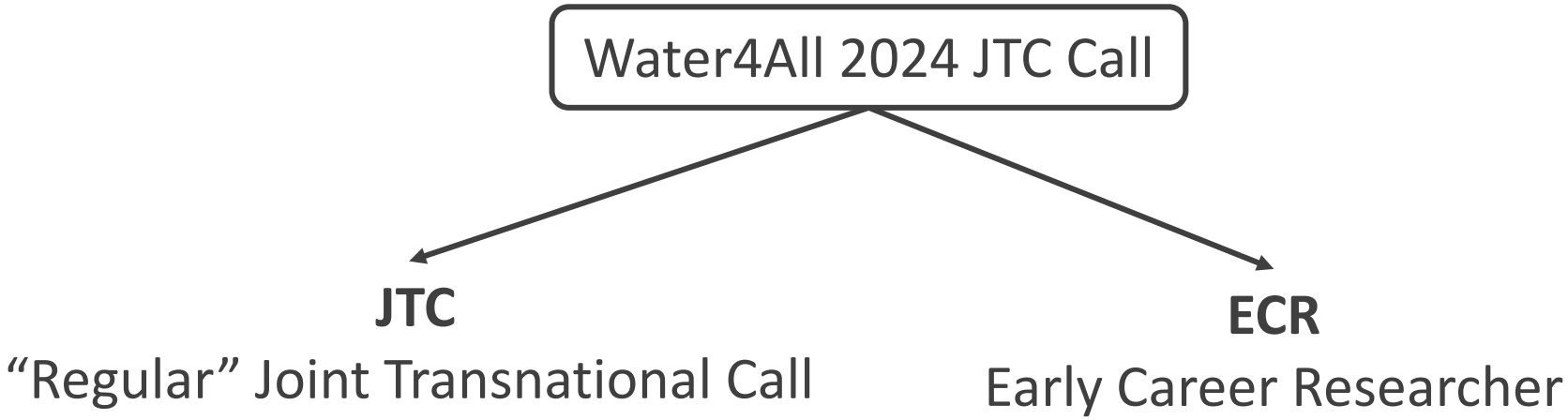
Early Career Researcher

Early Career Researcher (ECR) modality

A **Coordinator** has the possibility to apply under the ECR modality, if he/she:

- obtained their PhD less than 10 years prior to the call launch
- FPO is supporting this modality (see national regulations)

When creating the proposal, the Coordinator chooses between:



- Consortium Coordinator who meet the ECR criteria may decide whether they wish to participate in the JTC or in the ECR
- Participation in both modalities is incompatible

Early Career Researcher (ECR) modality

- **Only the coordinator** needs to comply with this criteria (Principal Investigators of other consortium partners or the team members do not need to be ECRs)
- The FPO funding the coordinator **must** participate in the ECR modality
- FPOs funding the partners in the ECR Consortium do not have to participate in the ECR modality (unless the national rules state otherwise)

- **<u>Commonality with the JTC:</u>**
  1. All other **General eligibility criteria are the same** (e.g. consortium composition)
  2. same thematic framework (**same topics**)
  3. same proposal **structure**
  4. Evaluation and ranking of the proposals (same **evaluation criteria**)
     - a unique ranking of all the proposals

- However, in their final funding decisions, **in case of equal ranking** FPOs will **prioritize the projects submitted under the ECR modality whenever possible**

6. Call process & Eligibility rules

Participating countries and rules for participation

35 Funding Performing Organisations (FPOs) from **30 countries**

~33 M€ national commitments from FPOs and EC co-funding

Applicants must comply with:

1. the general (international) eligibility criteria defined in the Call text

2. the national eligibility criteria defined by the FPOs in the national regulations
   - FPOs may have defined:
     - Maximum allowed budget per partner and/or project
     - Possibility to participate or not in the ECR modality
     - Call topics which are funded
     - Other national criteria

Participating countries/FPOs and budgets

	Country	FPO	JTC	ECR	Tentative budget
1	Austria	FWF	X		800.000 €
2	Belgium	FIO/ VLAIO	X		800.000 €
3	Belgium	FWO	X	X	700.000 €
4	Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS	X	X	300.000 €
5	Brazil	CONFAP	X	X	1.680.000 €
6	Brazil	CNPq	X	X	100.000 €
7	Czechia	TA CR	X		300.000 €
8	Denmark	IFD	X		1.300.000 €
9	Estonia	ETAg	X		300.000 €
10	Finland	AKA	X	X	850.000 €
11	Finland	YM	X	X	150.000 €
12	France	ANR	X	X	1.700.000 €
13	Germany	BMBF	X	X	2.000.000 €
14	Greece	GSRI	X		1.000.000 €
15	Hungary	NKFIH	X		330.000 €
16	Ireland	EPA	X	X	700.000 €
17	Israel	MoE	X		tbc
18	Italy	MUR	X		2.000.000 €
19	Latvia	LZP	X		570.000 €
20	Lithuania	LMT	X	X	300.000 €
21	Luxemburg	FNR	X		350.000 €
22	Malta	MEER	X		300.000 €
23	Moldova	NARD	X	X	200.000 €
24	Netherlands	NWO	X		1.500.000 €
25	Poland	NCBR	X		1.500.000 €
26	Portugal	FCT	*tbc*	*tbc*	*tbc*
27	Slovak Republic	SAS	X		240.000 €
28	South Africa	DSI	X	X	390.000 €
29	Spain	AEI	X	X	1.500.000 €
30	Spain	CDTI	X		400.000 €
31	Sweden	FORMAS	X	X	1.800.000 €
32	Switzerland	SNSF	X		1.500.000 €
33	Tunisia	MHESR	X		400.000 €
34	Turkey	TUBITAK	X		500.000 €
35	United Kingdom	EPSRC UKRI	X		590.000 €
Estimated EU contribution (in Euro)					**6.417.900 €**
Total national commitment (in Euro)					**27.050.000 €**
Total contribution (in Euro)					**33.367.900 €**

ROMANIA (UEFISCDI) DOES NOT PARTICPATE IN THE Water4All JTC 2024 on "Water for Circular Economy". Romanian partners can only join the consortium as self-funded partners!

General eligibility rules - Consortium Composition

AT LEAST 3 ELIGIBLE PARTNERS

- Requirement: funding request to participating FPOs

MAX 7 ELIGIBLE PARTNERS
(incl. max. 1 self- funded partner)

- A self-funded partner cannot coordinate a project

AT LEAST 3 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

- In addition, part of the eligible Partners, **at least two must be from different EU Member States or Associated Countries** participating in the call
  List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe
- Other countries in Water4All Call: Brazil and Switzerland

General eligibility rules - Consortium Composition

The maximum number of partners from the same country within the consortium must comply with national/regional regulations

A consortium including organisations from Spain, Italy and Brazil (Non EU member BUT participating in the Call)	**Eligible** ✓ 2 different EU Member States (Spain and Italy) and Associated Countries & Partners from 3 different countries participating in the call (Brazil)
A consortium including organisations from France, Spain and Cyprus (as self-funded partner)	**Not Eligible** ✓ 2 different EU Member States (France and Spain) and Associated Countries & Partners from 3 different countries participating in the call (Cyprus is not participating in the call)

Other general eligibility rules

Consortium Coordinator (Principal Investigator - PI)

- a **Consortium Coordinator** can only participate in **one proposal of this call**
- cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as PI of a partner
- The **Consortium Coordinator must be eligible** for funding by a FPO of this call.

Partner

In **roles other than that of a Coordinator**, the applicants can **participate in several proposals**, as long as this is in line with their funding organisation's eligibility rules

Proposal Language
English

Project duration
3 years

Workload distribution

- No partner shall have more than 50% of PM.
- Partners from the same country shall not have, altogether, more than 50 % of PM

Self-funded partners and eligibility of international research institutions

Institutions from countries not participating in the Call may join consortia only as partners (**not a coordinator**).

Max 1 self-funded partner per consortium allowed

Prove their willingness to self-fund their own activities or the willingness of other partners to fund their activities by sending a **letter of intent / commitment** together with the **full proposal**

Participation will be **at the institutions' own expense**

International institutions need to investigate their respective national eligibility guidelines if they are eligible to participate as funded partners and make sure they would be able to fulfil the duties of funded projects (i.e. signature of consortium agreement)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) can participate in a proposal as a self-funded partner

Funding organisations' financial rules and eligibitility criteria

Each National / Regional Funding Organisation funds its own national / regional team

!! Applicants must comply with their funding organisations' eligibility criteria and rules !!

(e.g. eligible budget items)

Applicants are strongly advised to approach their respective Funding organisation Contact Point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules **!!**

Consult the Funding Organisations' Contact Points and National Regulations **in the call documents to download** on the 2024 JTC dedicated webpage

Changes allowed between pre & full proposals

!! The information given in the pre-proposals is binding !!

No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed

For administrative details: a limited number of changes may be allowed provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Partner Organisations (FPO). Participants shall contact the call secretariat via e-mail and their NCP.

- **Minor change of budget** if allowed by the relevant FPO
- **No changes of coordinator** (P.I. Principal Investigator in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. A request of **change of coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals** and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Changes in the consortium composition

A limited number of changes in the consortium composition: maximum 2 changes of Project Partners in proposals with more than 5 partners; maximum 1 change of project partner in proposals with 5 or less partners, provided approval by the concerned Funding Organisations.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS A CHANGE?

- **Addition, removal or replacement of a Partner** (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners).
- Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to **"Partner", i.e., the independent legal entity** participating in the Transnational RD&I project

In terms of procedure: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked first to the NCP, who needs to check the eligibility and agree with the change.

Submission procedure

Step 1

Mandatory submission of pre-proposals through the Electronic platform submission system (EPSS PT Outline) under the regular JTC or ECR modality

Eligibility Check by CS and FPO

Evaluation by independent evaluation panel (Minimum threshold, i.e., 3 out of 5 in each criterion)

Step 2

Applicants invited to step 2 have to submit a full proposal via the Electronic platform submission system

Eligibility Check by CS and FPO

Evaluation by independent evaluation panel (Threshold on the final score is 10/15)

Selection

Negotiation

Contract Agreement, Consortium Agreement

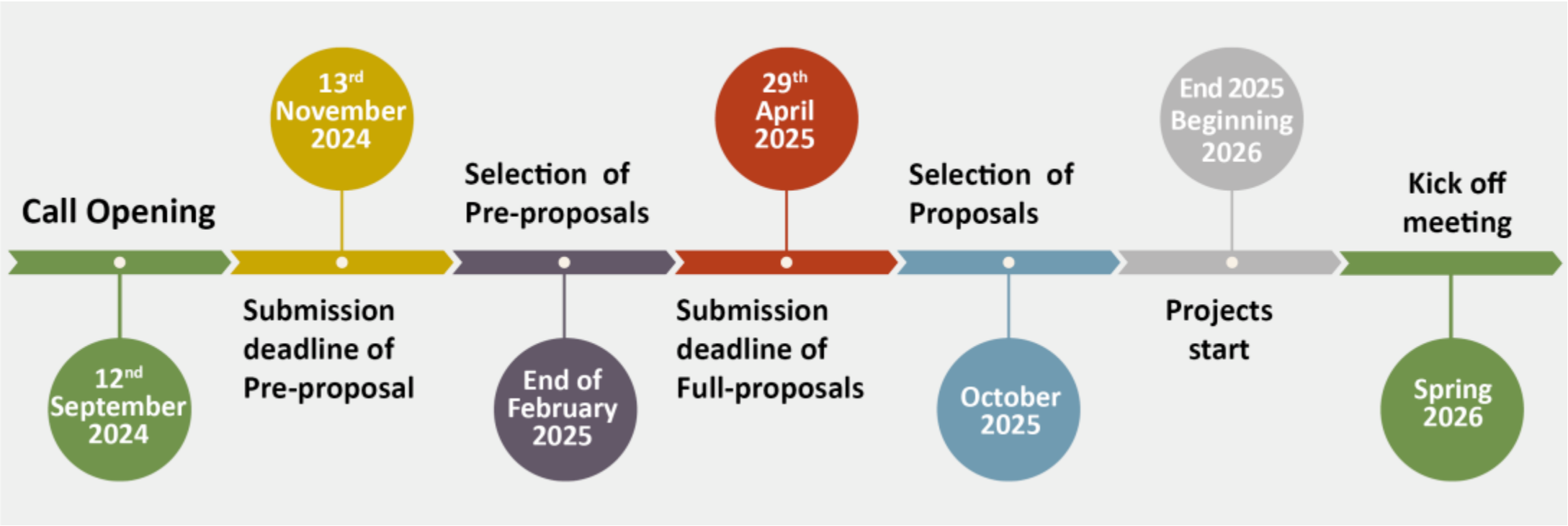
Evaluation - Step 1

1. Excellence
2. Impact
3. Implementation

Evalutation Step 2

Timeline

!! Do not wait until the last minute to submit !!

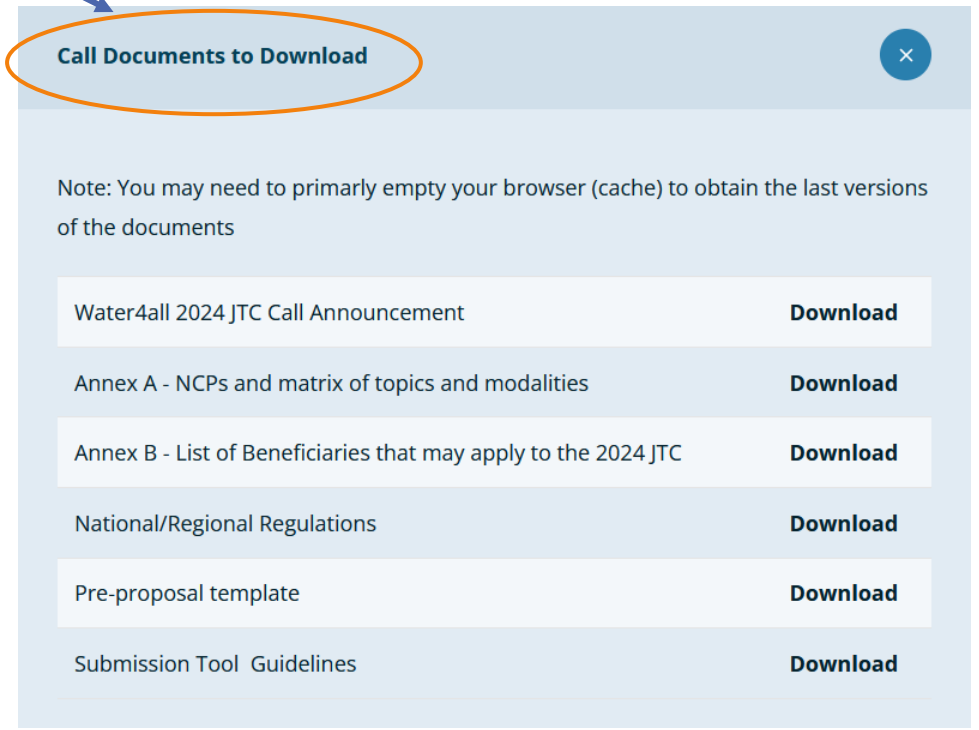


Resources available online

Water4All website dedicated section « Joints Calls / Open Calls»

https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2024-joint-transnational-call

- **CALL DOCUMENTS available for download**
  - Call Announcement (call text)
  - Annex A - NCPs and matrix of topics and modalities
  - Annex B - (Only for applicants of organisations that are also involved in Water4All)
  - National Regulations
  - Preproposal Template
  - Submission Tool Guidelines
- Link to the **Online Submission Tool**
- **Partnering Tool** (If you are looking for a partner or for a project to join)
- **Coming Soon:** Webinar recording and master presentation



IMPORTANT: check the website regularly, as there may be updates on the call, including the national regulations!

Partnering Tool

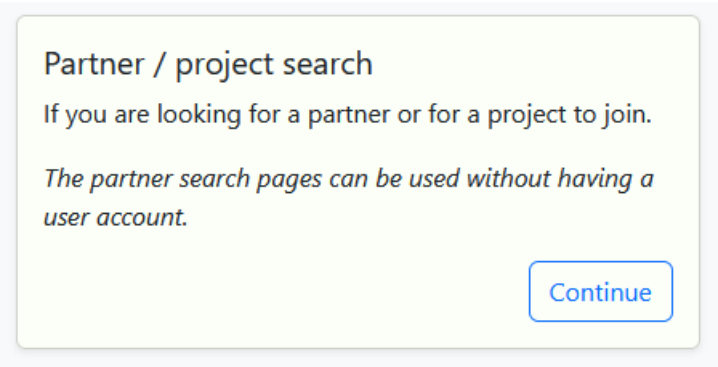
Use of the **Water4All Partnering Tool**

You simply have to fill in a Partner / Project Search form on the Partnering Tool:

https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/2024/partner-search

Your form will be visible on the platform and you may be contacted by other applicants

- Have a look at the forms submitted through a user-friendly search function:
  search for partners or projects to join on the platform according to different criteria:
  country, call topic, keywords (already more than xx entries!)

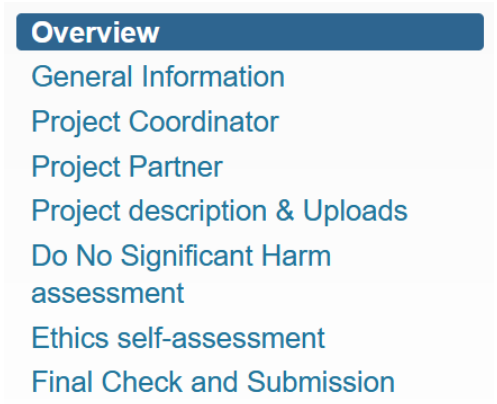


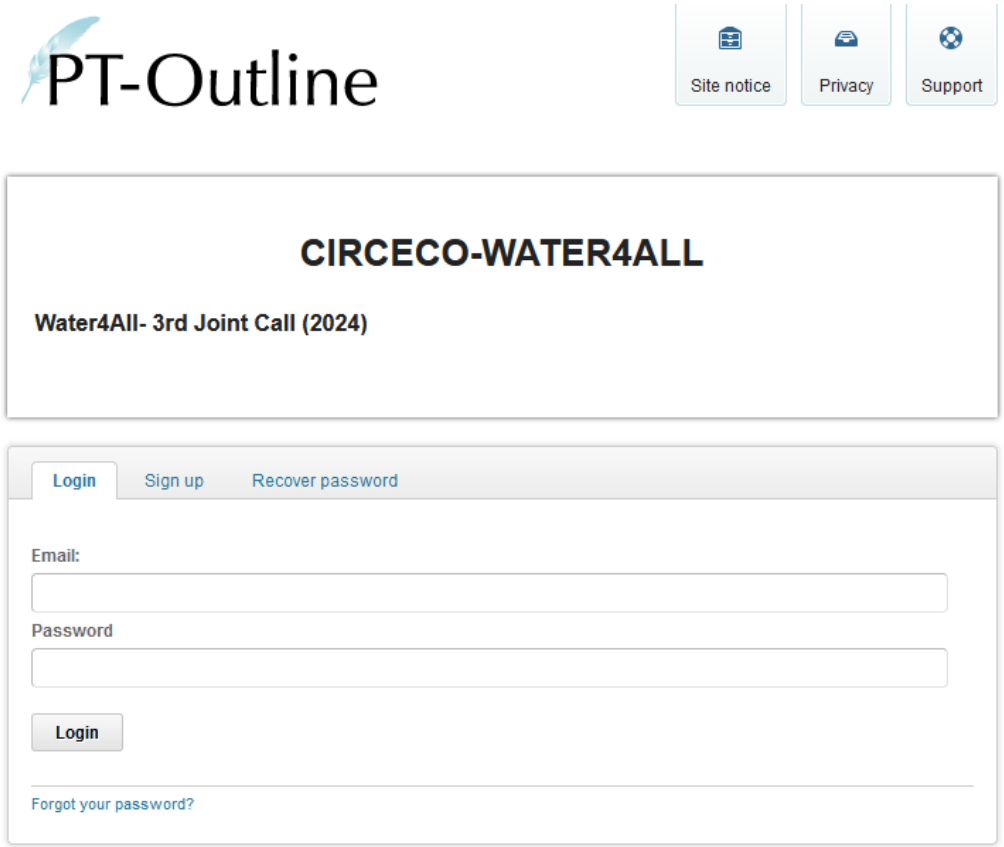
Submission Platform

Water4All Electronic platform submission system (PT-Outline)

https://ptoutline.eu/app/circeco-water4all

Submission Tool Guidelines are available on the Water4All Call-Website under “CALL DOCUMENTS available for download”





Questions

Conclusion

Thank you for your attention

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the European Union